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# SHEN YUN—NOTHING SHORT OF A MIRACLE ...

**"The dancers are amazing**
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*— **Kelly Rutherford,** actress, Gossip Girl*

**"A mesmerizing performance**
... reclaiming the divinely inspired cultural heritage of China."
*— **Donna Karan,** creator of DKNY*

**"Very elegant,**
very athletic and very skilled."
*— **John McColgan,** Riverdance director*

Story of Mulan, 2009.

**SHEN YUN PERFORMING ARTS.** Audiences who have seen it recall the experience of a lifetime; a moment so powerfully beautiful, it touches the soul.

Shen Yun presents colorful and exhilarating performances of classical Chinese dance and music. A performance by Shen Yun is a presentation of traditional Chinese culture as it once was: a study in grace, wisdom, and the virtues distilled from the five millennia of Chinese civilization.

Every year, Shen Yun unveils an entirely new lineup of dances, songs, and musical scores. At the core of Shen Yun's performances is classical Chinese dance with China's numerous ethnic and folk dance styles rounding out the evening.

In a collection of short pieces, audiences travel from the Himalayas to tropical lake-filled regions, from the legends of the culture's creation over 5,000 years ago to the story of Falun Dafa in China today, from the highest heavens down to the dusty plateaus of the Middle Kingdom.

During a single performance, Shen Yun transports audiences across time and space, offering a cross-cultural experience that not only entertains, but more broadly, educates and inspires. After seeing the show, one audience member marveled, "This production ... is nothing short of a miracle!"

## A DANCE SYSTEM TEMPERED OVER THOUSANDS OF YEARS

Classical Chinese dance is one of the most demanding and expressive art forms in the world. Grounded in 5,000 years of divinely inspired culture, classical Chinese dance entails systematic training in movements and postures, as well as very difficult leaps, flips, spins and other tumbling techniques. Richly expressive, it portrays personalities and feelings with unparalleled clarity, making classical Chinese dance ideal for storytelling.

Built on traditional aesthetics, classical Chinese dance was once passed down among the people, in imperial courts and ancient plays. Over thousands of years, it was constantly refined, eventually developing into the vast and distinctly Chinese dance form we know today.

Shen Yun's principal dancer Cindy Liu in an International Classical Chinese Dance competition.

TICKETS **Boston Feb 8–10 | Worcester Feb 6–7 | Providence Feb 5 | ShenYun.com** | Hotline: **800-954-4606**

LETTERS@METRO.US

# BOSTON: THE BEST OF 2012 {pages 10-11}

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BOSTON
Monday, December 17, 2012

GETTY IMAGES

- President Obama speaks at interfaith prayer service in Newtown, lauds community's courage
- Reads victims' names, asks that nation finds 'the strength to carry on and make our country worthy of their memory'
- Boston mourns too, holding vigils and services {pages 02, 06}

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## By the numbers

**4,576**

The number of fare evasion citations that Transit Police officers have handed out so far in 2012. The citations have already surpassed last year's total of more than 3,400. METRO

## Today's local tweet

**"Thank you #MBTA for taking me places on a cold Sunday morning :)"**

@RURU2706, WHO BRAVED THE T INSTEAD OF THE COLD YESTERDAY MORNING.

## In the news

Coakley

### Coakley talks about potential U.S. Senate run

**MASSACHUSETTS.** It's looking more like Massachusetts will have another special Senate election with the likelihood that Sen. John Kerry will be leaving the Bay State to become the next secretary of state. Attorney General Martha Coakley, who lost the state's last special Senate election to Sen. Scott Brown, was recently asked about her potential candidacy.

"You ask me today, I'm running for reelection for attorney general," Coakley told WBZ in an interview that aired yesterday.

She refused to say outright whether she would run once Kerry is nominated for the national position. METRO

### Man fatally shot in South End

**BOSTON.** Police are searching for the person who fatally shot a man on the South End/Roxbury line.

Officers responded to 11 Windsor St. just before 11 a.m. Saturday, according to police. When they arrived, officers found a man suffering from gunshot wounds outside the building. He was pronounced dead at the scene. Police did not identify the victim. Anyone with information can call 617-343-4470. METRO

### Student hit by car, killed

**MELROSE.** A student at Framingham State University was hit and killed by a car this weekend. Colleen Kelly, 21, of Melrose, was hit by a car near campus just after 10 p.m. Friday, according to WCVB.

Kelly was a senior English major, according to the university. The school has made counseling services available. Framingham and state police are investigating. METRO

# Boston mourns for Newtown

**Residents around Greater Boston attend vigils, offer prayers Menino, cardinal urge action on gun laws**

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Parishioners at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in the South End listen yesterday to Cardinal Sean O'Malley's homily about the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting.

Although Newtown, Conn., is about 150 miles away from Boston, the impact and grief in the wake of Friday's mass shooting could be felt here at home.

"What has happened in these days in Newtown, Conn., is a tragedy of almost biblical proportions that has caused the whole country to stop and to take notice," said Cardinal Sean O'Malley during his Sunday homily.

Speaking at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in the South End, O'Malley said yesterday's Mass was offered in solidarity with those who lost loved ones when 20-year-old Adam Lanza forced his way into Sandy Hook Elementary School and killed 26 people, including 20 first-grade students. It was one of the worst mass shootings in the country's history.

"It's hard for us to imagine how deep the pain is of those families whose little ones lost their lives," he said. "The whole country has been shaken by this tragic event."

Flags in cities and towns across the state were lowered to half staff in the aftermath of the shooting. Anti-violence groups such as the Boston Ten Point Coalition urged faith leaders to lead prayers in remembrance of the victims, and vigils were held during the weekend in memory of the young lives lost.

"As a parent and grandparent, I am overcome with both grief and outrage by the tragedy in Newtown, Conn. This unspeakable act of violence will forever imprint this day in our hearts and minds," Mayor Thomas Menino said in a statement.

At the Old South Church in Boston near Copley Square, clergy members lit 28 candles in memory of all of the victims.

A motive for the shooting was still not clear yesterday, and authorities were trying to put together a picture of Lanza as part of their investigation.

But during his homily, O'Malley called upon the country to improve the resources available for those dealing with mental illness.

"As a whole country … we must recognize our society's inability to deal with mental illness in a more effective way," he said.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
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### Protection at schools increased

Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis said shortly after Friday's shooting that he had been in contact with Boston Public Schools officials and while there was no connection to the Boston area, steps would be taken to increase safety.

"The shooting is disturbing," Davis said Friday. "Accordingly, we will be increasing uniformed police patrols in and around schools over the next several days."

**Quoted: O'Malley**

**"What has happened in these days in Newtown, Conn., is a tragedy of almost biblical proportions."**

**"As a whole country … we must recognize our society's inability to deal with mental illness in a more effective way."**

**Quoted: Menino**

**"As a parent and grandparent, I am overcome with both grief and outrage by the tragedy in Newtown, Conn. This unspeakable act of violence will forever imprint this day in our hearts and minds."**

### Guns talk of the town

With 20 first-grade students suddenly gunned down inside their school, the debate over gun control has once again entered the forefront.

"There can be no rational justification for allowing people to have personal arsenals of assault weapons," Cardinal Sean O'Malley said in his Sunday homily. "How many innocent people will have to be slaughtered before the country is prepared to stop this madness?"

Mayor Thomas Menino, who co-chairs group Mayors Against Illegal Guns, said the tragedy reminds us that "now is the time for action."

"Now is the time for a national policy on guns that takes the loopholes out of the laws, the automatic weapons out of our neighborhoods and tragedies like [Friday's] out of our future."

**"Now is the time for a national policy on guns that takes the … automatics out of our neighborhoods."**
MENINO

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# Making way for the new MBTA boss

## New general manager to take the reins today ◗ Acting GM Davis says it's been 'an honor' to serve riders

Today, Dr. Beverly A. Scott takes the wheel of the MBTA.

She will begin her first day as the T's new general manager at 7:30 a.m. at State Station, where she is expected to greet commuters and unveil new train countdown clocks for the Blue Line.

Before Scott arrived in Boston last week, the man she's replacing reflected on the 17 months he held the job of interim general manager. When all is said and done, Jonathan Davis said he is proud to have helped "improve the customers' experience" on the T.

"I think we've accomplished a lot here," said Davis. "It's been an honor for me to be the general manager and represent all of the 6,000 men and women who serve our customers every single day."

As Scott steps into his shoes, the self-proclaimed "transit junkie" will likely face the same obstacles Davis tackled.

"The biggest challenge for Beverly will be the continuation of the financial discussions associated with properly funding transportation in Massachusetts, not only the MBTA," he said.

After she was selected as head honcho in September, Scott told reporters that she would spend the first couple of weeks on the job "getting her feet wet" in the transit system.

As for Davis, today he will returns to focusing on his position as the T's chief financial officer — a post he's held for more than a decade.

MORGAN ROUSSEAU
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### Looking forward

- Scott will be the first woman and second African-American to hold the job of general manager at the MBTA.
- Her three-year contract includes an annual salary of $220,000.
- She previously served as the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority's general manager and CEO. The system includes 600 buses, 175 paratransit vans, 318 rail cars and 47 miles of track — the ninth-largest system in the nation.

**Christmas.** Charity

▶ Hundreds, including Gov. Deval Patrick, attended yesterday's "Christmas in the City," holiday party.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

## Party helps homeless children

**Thousands of adults and children attended the annual Christmas in the City party this weekend in Boston. The annual holiday party for homeless children in Massachusetts included face painting, gingerbread house making and games and rides yesterday at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center.**

METRO

## News in brief

▶ Dwayne Moore

### Mattapan retrial deliberations to continue today

**BOSTON.** The jury will continue to deliberate today in the retrial of the man accused in the Mattapan massacre murders.

It will be the third day of deliberations for the jury, which had two jurors dismissed last week. One juror had to be excused to attend to a sick relative and the other was dismissed because he conducted online research on ballistics evidence.

The jury is weighing the fate of Dwayne Moore, who is accused of fatally shooting four people in 2010. METRO

### Woman hit by commuter train

**CONCORD.** A woman was hit and killed by a commuter rail train, Transit Police said.

The woman was trespassing on the tracks about 200 yards from the Route 2 bridge in Concord just after 8 p.m. Thursday, police said. She was hit by an eastbound Fitchburg Line train.

Transit Police identified the victim as a woman between 18 and 22 years old. METRO

### Officials probe South Shore fire

**WEST BRIDGEWATER.** Fire officials are investigating a blaze in an empty home on the South Shore where a recent rash of arsons has the region on edge.

The fire broke out Saturday morning in West Bridgewater, according to The Enterprise. It has not been tied to the recent string of arson fires.

The home was under construction. METRO

# Change Heroes: Young Bostonian, 33 friends build school in Kenya

DARCY TURENNE

▶ Evan Mula joins Kenyan kids at the new school built by his Change Heroes fundraising campaign.

A few months ago, 22-year-old Evan Mula was a big-hearted dreamer in search of a way to give back. "That's how I was raised. You work hard, and you give to those in need," said Mula, a Waltham resident who calls Boston his playground.

His skepticism of charities always held him back, but Mula was inspired by Canadian entrepreneur Taylor Conroy's idea for an online platform that targeted Generation Y — an idea that would soon culminate into Change Heroes.

Conroy created the Web platform with the goal of tapping into younger philanthropists who are "outcome oriented," Conroy said, meaning they want to see and feel the outcome of their efforts. That is the reason his platform gave donors on Mula's project — building a school in Kenya — the ability to visit the school that their donation funded. It also provides videos and photos of the Kenyan students, as well as progress reports and personalized "thank-you" videos from the children.

Last month, Mula traveled with Conroy to Kenya to see firsthand how the fundraising efforts affected 1,000 children there.

"It was an amazing experience. The kids came running out to see us. They were so happy and grateful," he said. "I'd only ever been to 'developed' countries. ... Being there and [seeing] the result was absolutely incredible."

**Quoted**

**"I guess I wanted to prove that it's not just the old, established business types who can make a difference."** MULA

▶ Kenyan students usher Mula into their classroom.

## Talking with a generation

"The goal is to alleviate this generation's trepidation around giving by showing them exactly where their money is going," said Chelsea Moore, a spokeswoman for Change Heroes.

Since the 20- and 30-something crowd is one that likes to share, whether through Facebook, Twitter or a blog, Change Heroes equips donors with precise messages to post to social media sites.

Comforted by the platform's transparency and aim at a younger, social media-friendly generation, Mula reached out to Conroy to kick off his Boston-area campaign. He asked 33 friends to give $3.33 a day for three months, raising about $10,000 by early fall — enough to build a school in Kenya.

"The platform just checked all the boxes for me. People don't want to give 20 bucks and wonder where it goes," he said.

"I guess I wanted to prove that its not just the old, established business types who can make a difference."

**MORGAN ROUSSEAU**
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## In the news

### State to honor firefighters, issue medals this week

**MASSACHUSETTS.** Firefighters from across the state will be honored this week for heroic acts of bravery.

Gov. Deval Patrick, state Fire Marshal Stephen Coan and other officials will recognize the firemen Tuesday during the 23rd annual Firefighter of the Year awards ceremony in Worcester. Medals of Honor will be presented posthumously to Peabody firefighter James Rice and Worcester firefighter Jon Davies, who died fighting fires last year. Firemen from Bridgewater, Brookline, Lynn, Peabody, Salem, Worcester and other communities will also be honored. METRO

Rice

Davies

### Man falls inside wind turbine

**HANOVER.** Fire crews rescued an injured man who fell while working inside a wind turbine.

The unidentified man was working in the wind turbine when he went to step from a platform to a ladder, slipped and fell about 24 feet to the next platform below, according to the Globe.

Crews used a basket to secure the worker and lower him to safety.

His injuries were not life-threatening. METRO

# Obama joins grieving families in Newtown

## Still looking for answers

Though Americans have seen many mass shootings in the past decades, the victims have rarely been so young. On Saturday, some Democratic lawmakers called for sweeping new gun-control measures, a move certain to run up against stiff opposition from the nation's powerful pro-gun lobby.

While the president and families mourn, police are still pushing for a fuller explanation of what drove Lanza, 20, to apparently kill his mother at her house, go to Sandy Hook Elementary, shoot out a window and storm through the school with multiple weapons.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Mourners express their grief.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Makeshift memorials appeared in this affluent town of 27,000 people about 80 miles from New York City.

MANDEL NGAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

President Barack Obama yesterday consoled the Connecticut town shattered by the massacre of 20 young schoolchildren, lauding residents' courage in the face of tragedy and saying the United States was not doing enough to protect its children.

"Surely we can do better than this," Obama told a packed high school auditorium.

The emotional prayer vigil capped a day when worshippers sought solace in churches to mourn the victims of Friday's slaughter at Sandy Hook Elementary School, where a gunman used a military-style assault rifle to kill six adults and 20 first-graders before committing suicide.

All the dead children were either 6 or 7 years old, feeding more emotion into a revived debate about whether stricter gun laws could prevent future mass shootings in the United States.

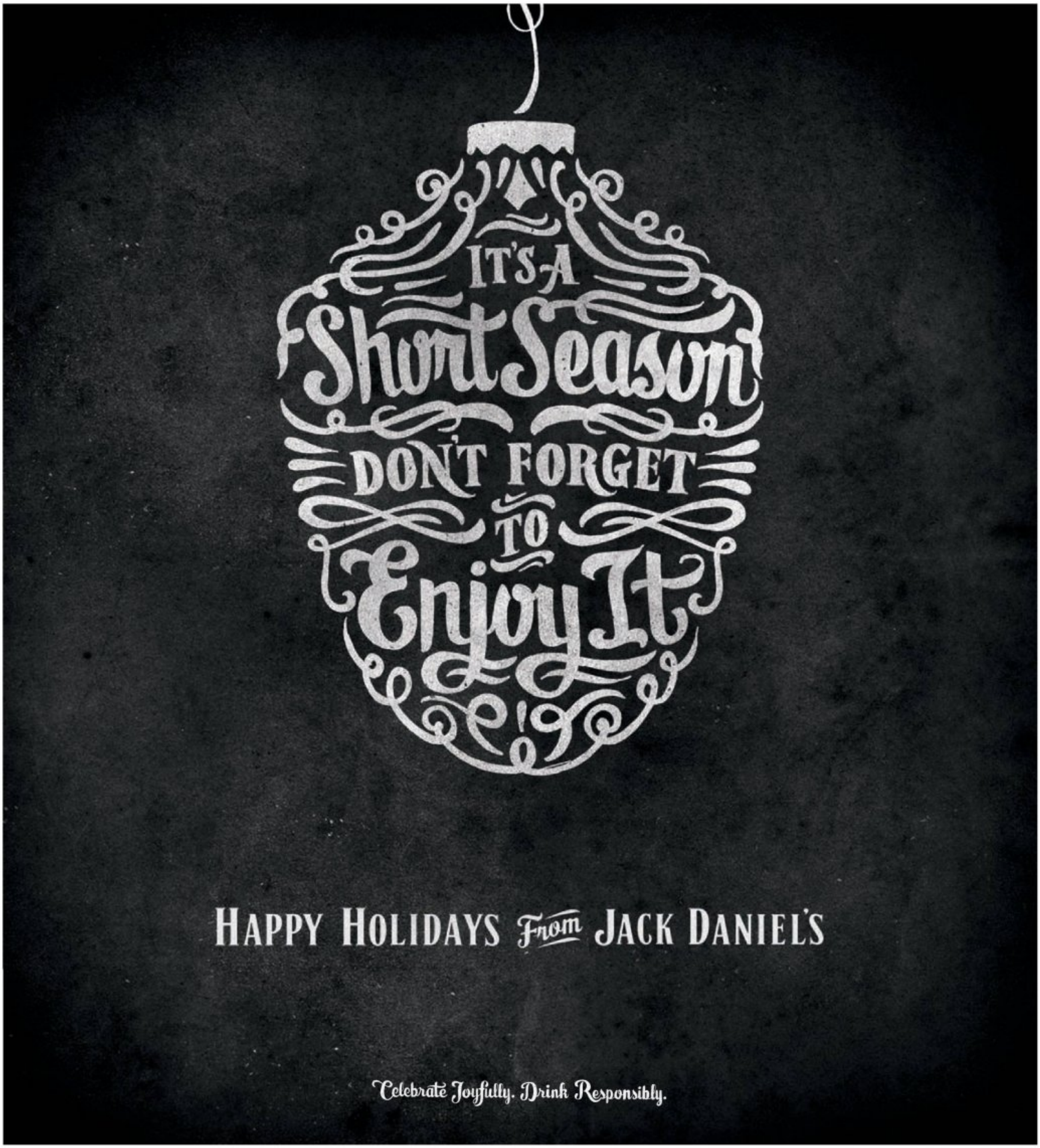
"Here in Newtown, I come to offer the love and prayers of the nation," Obama said. "I am very mindful that mere words cannot match the depths of your sorrow, nor can they heal your wounded hearts."

Obama spoke the names of the Sandy Hook school staff members who died on Friday.

Parents and children filled the Newtown High School auditorium for the evening vigil. Some of the children clutched stuffed animals and Red Cross blankets issued to ward off the cold.

"It's a sign of hope that the leader of our country comes here and shows support," said Brantl, whose daughter, Tess, 9, was at Sandy Hook during the shooting. "We're turning the corner, and there's a lot of hope now." REUTERS

**"They responded as we all hope we might respond in such terrifying circumstances: with courage and with love, giving their lives to protect the children in their care."** OBAMA

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In the news

## Banks fend off attacks to disrupt online banking

**BOSTON/CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA.** Bank of America Corp., JPMorgan Chase & Co. and U.S. Bancorp and other major U.S. banks seem to have stopped a group of hacker activists from seriously disrupting their online banking operations.

A financial services industry organization and several cyber security companies said a group of "hactivists" that impeded access to some major U.S. online banking sites in September had so far failed to gain traction in a second campaign that began this week.

"There has been no impact to critical financial systems," the Financial Services Information Sharing and Analysis Center, or FS-ISAC, said in a statement.

Tom Kellermann, vice president of cyber security at security software maker Trend Micro Inc., said the banks had been "very successful."

He added: "I wouldn't see any prolonged outages for the major financial institutions in the coming year." **REUTERS**

GETTY IMAGES

# Thinking about Weight Loss Surgery?

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*From left: Dr. Ashley Vernon, Dr. Malcolm Robinson, Dr. Scott Shikora, Dr. Jooyeun Chung, and Dr. Ali Tavakkoli*

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Tuesday, January 8, 6 p.m.
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Opinion

**JUSTIN DOWD**
WINNER OF METRO'S RACE TO SPACE

www.metro.us/weirdscience

# THE TRUE STORY OF WHALE BRAINS

**Humans may not be the first life forms on Earth to evolve love and language. Researchers recently discovered an abundance of rare neurons in several ocean mammals' brains thought to exist only in primates.**

Fin, humpback and killer whales (species of dolphin), contain spindle cells. Growing evidence indicates these specialized neurons are integral for self-awareness, empathy, love, suffering, language and judgment in humans. Early estimates reveal whales have three times the number of spindles as people, who boast the most of all primates. The cells act as electrical shortcuts allowing gut reactions.

Whales and dolphins display human behavior, like forming family groups. Individuals even have names. Adult male humpbacks, recently thought to be solitary drifters, often join others. Decades later, some best buds remain together and even sing with identical signatures, capable of communicating through 1,000 kilometers of ocean, 10 times the distance to space.

Quoted

**"Whales and dolphins display human behavior, like forming family groups. Individuals even have names."**

Peter Tyack of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute has said, "Humpback song is a form of animal culture, just like music for humans would be." Popular songs change over time, while original songs are important to a female's choice in mates.

Captive bottlenose dolphins show awareness through self-recognition in mirrors and check themselves out daily, some as early as the age of 6 months. Human toddlers realize mirrors show their reflection around 18 months.

Mysteries of the ocean unravel each year. In 2007, part of a bomb used to hunt whales in the 1880s was found lodged in the shoulder of a dead bowhead. Eye samples of bowhead whales revealed many individuals in their mid-hundreds, one as old as 240 greatly surpassing humans as the oldest living mammal. This means right now, the oceans contain self-aware animals that have been swimming since Thomas Jefferson was president.

Whales have evolved twice as long as primates and contain spindle cells in parts of the brain not found in people. These discoveries indicate Earth's first self-aware life form was not a person, but a whale. Love and language, previously thought to be uniquely human, likely unfolded beneath ocean waves 15 million years before primates. The oceans are not what they seem.

Log on

Justin has produced a chalkanimation video to accompany this column. View it at **www.metro.us/weirdscience.**

*Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.*

# It's time

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**Boston — The Best of 2012:** Dining out

## Best-of series

*All week long, Metro will be highlighting our selections of the city's best — from dining spots to health and beauty oases — of 2012. Check back tomorrow for our picks in nightlife and culture.*

### Best 'no, kitty — this is my pot pie' pie:

**Treats on Washington**
**379 Washington St., Brighton, 617-202-5837,** www.treatsboston.com
The annual Cartman-Approved Pot Pie award (Google "No, kitty, this is my pot pie") now goes to Treats on Washington's golden-crusted, all-natural, humanely raised chicken pot pie. Second place: The pie-meets-calzone-like baked sandwiches are — well, kitty isn't getting any of that, either.

### Best place to get full on the cheap without feeling like a cheapskate:

**Abigail's**
**291 Third St., Cambridge, 617-945-9086,** www.abigailsrestaurant.net
Abigail's runs the gamut from sandwiches to entrees, but the fare is all hearty, no matter what you go with. Abigail's is also tied with itself for being the best place to tag along with friends who are eating if you're too broke to afford a full meal. Seriously, the gouda fries are only $9, and you'll be patting your belly all night with satisfaction.

### Best reason to give up your veganism:

**5 Napkin Burger**
**105 Huntington Ave., Prudential Center, Boston, 617-375-2277**
**www.5napkinburger.com/back-bay-boston**
OK, so you don't have to give up your veganism at this New York import — they have veggie burgers — but why not? Do you really want to miss appetizers like the deep-fried pickles and pastrami? Or burgers like the signature 5 Napkin with gruyere cheese, caramelized onions and rosemary aioli? Or entrees like the chipotle chicken mac and cheese? Your choice.

### Best use of chickpeas in a pita:

**Amsterdam Falafelshop**
**248 Elm St., Somerville, 617-764-3334, www.falafelshop.com**
Unlike most falafel shops, this one, modeled on those in Amsterdam, lets you pick your toppings buffet-style. And oh, what a delicious selection it has — too many to mention, but it'll suffice to say it goes way beyond lettuce. The crew fries up the balls fresh throughout the day but gives each customer so many (five is standard) that they can't always keep up with the demand. The wait is well worth it.

### Best suburban diner to eat like you're in NYC:

**Strip-T's**
**93 School St., Watertown, 617-923-4330, www.stripts.com**
Critics and bloggers alike flock to Watertown — for the first time ever, probably — to rave about this longtime neighborhood diner transformed into a foodie haven by chef Tim Maslow, who recently announced plans to expand into Brookline.

ERIN BALDASSARI/METRO

### Coziest place to take in some history in a glass:

**Kitchen**
**560 Tremont St., Boston 617-695-1250**
**www.kitchenbostonmass.com**
Eating and drinking are history. Just consult the dozens of classic cookbooks that line the shelves on this new South End eatery that takes the origins of its food and drink as seriously as its preparation.

### Most likely to start a bitter but delicious pizza war:

**Otto**
**289 Harvard St., Brookline, 617-232-0014,** www.ottoportland.com
Portland's Otto, with experimentally delicious toppings combos like butternut squash, ricotta and cranberry, could've easily gone up against the Upper Crust in its prime (though the war may be over since the Upper Crust filed for bankruptcy). With two other locations, in Harvard Square and near BU, it's threatening to become just as ubiquitous — not too fast, guys!

### Most likely to give Colonel Sanders a run for his money:

**Bon Chon**
**57 John F. Kennedy St., Cambridge, 617-868-0981, www.bonchon.com**
This Korean chicken-wing chain still has most of its locations in Asia, but the Allston joint has been doing well enough that one just opened in Harvard Square. What's the food like? The way people talk about it, it seems to border on a religious experience, at least insofar as freshly cooked fried chicken with perfectly balanced hot sauce is capable of producing such a thing. Turns out it's pretty capable.

### Best Southern accent in Yankeeland:

**M3**
**382 Highland Ave., Somerville 617-718-6666,** www.imwithmeat.com
M3's basic ideal of meat and three veg doesn't come close to describing Tennessee native Jason Owens' Davis Square restaurant. Without compromising Southern home cooking, M3 delivers retro diner chic for the modern palate — and the best damn fried catfish north of the Mason-Dixon Line.

### Best designated driver who won't judge your indulgence:

**City Wine Tours**
**1 Mifflin Place, Suite 400, Cambridge, 855-455-8747 ext. 3**
**www.citywinetours.com**
City Wine Tours takes the wheel, or heel, and guides oenophiles on wonderful wine-tasting treks around town. (Now if only they could drop us off at home after!)

### Best cure for the uncommon cold:

**Aquitaine's French onion soup**
**569 Tremont St., Boston, 617-424-8577, aquitaineboston.com**
Even in the land of clam chowder, Aquitaine's French onion tops the comfort-zone chart for the sniffles and snizzles of winter. It's made the classic way – white wine, onions, stock and topped with a hearty crouton dripping with Gruyere.

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**Best make-out table for that smoochy romantic dinner:**

**Avila**
**1 Charles St. S, Boston, 617-267-4810,** www.avilarestaurant.com
Avila's alcove seat means your liaison dangereuse remains cozy and cosseted. Glance out at the hoi polloi while you're sequestered in this private dining nook in this pretty restaurant. Chef Rodney Murillo's pan-Mediterranean menu will definitely seal the deal.

▶ If dinner at Avila doesn't persuade you to make out with your special someone, we don't know what will.

**Best place to call ahead to make sure it's actually in business this month:**

**Tonic**
**3698A Washington St., Jamaica Plain, 617-522-4131,** www.tonicboston.com
After a rocky start, the loss of the opening chef and a brief hiatus, JP's sleek (but cheap) French/Japanese hybrid bistro is (we think) back in business.

**Best place to look European without having to drop any T's:**

**The Blue Room**
**1 Kendall Square, Cambridge 617-494-0968,** www.bellywinebar.com
The Blue Room's new wine bar, Belly, is the last bon mo(t) in off-the-wall, across-the-pond wines. Nibble equally eclectic charcuterie and cheese while getting the nose on a wine chosen by Central Bottle's amazingly enthusiastic wine lovers.

**Best-looking 100-year-old dame:**

**Fairmont Copley**
**138 St. James Ave., Boston, 617-585-7222,** www.oaklongbarkitchen.com
Not only is the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel sporting the best face-lift since Joan Rivers, but Oak Long Bar + Kitchen is the most swellegant place ever and looks way better than before the centennial renovations.

DONALD ROCKHEAD

▶ Don't worry: The mariachi Hamburglar guy will not steal your meal at The Friendly Toast.

**Best Boston cream pie — or is that best cupcake?:**

**Sweet**
**49 Mass. Ave., Boston, 617-247-2253,** www.sweetcupcakes.com
Sweet's Boston cream pie cupcake is the best er, cupcake, er, cream pie, er ... whatever it is, it's the cupcake that even cupcake deniers love to guzzle.

**Kindest pizza in the world:**

**Veggie Planet**
**47 Palmer St., Cambridge, 617-661-1513,** www.veggieplanet.net
Veggie Planet's pizza is simply the tastiest, cruelty-freest snack around. It's kind to humans, too, with lower gluten whole-wheat flour made by those fine Haley House peeps.

**Best place to eat breakfast at an inappropriate hour:**

**The Friendly Toast**
**1 Hampshire St., Cambridge 617-621-1200,** www.thefriendlytoast.net
With an endless (and endlessly creative) menu, including pumpkin pancakes and green eggs and ham — not to mention the surreally wacky decor — this Kendall Square mainstay is delicious for both mouth and eyes. The only trouble is finding the notoriously elusive One Kendall Square plaza — we recommend a divining rod.

**Best place for a man date:**

**Sweet Cheeks**
**1381 Boylston St., Boston, 617-266-1300,** www.sweetcheeksq.com
It's safe to say that the best way to the heart of the majority of the bruter sex is dinner at Sweet Cheeks. For everyone else, it's simply the best BBQ in town.


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# Berkeley to give college scholarships to illegal immigrants

**A $1 million gift will go to students who are not eligible for federal grants and loans Critics say such measures give false hope of legal employment**

Berkeley's scholarship grant is the largest ever for undocumented immigrants.

The University of California's Berkeley campus announced last week that a private foundation has given $1 million to fund scholarships for illegal immigrants.

The scholarships will go to nearly 200 students who are not eligible for federal grants, government-backed loans or work-study positions, the school said.

The Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund, a private family foundation, provided the scholarship grant. It is the largest scholarship for undocumented immigrants ever given to a U.S. university, the foundation said.

"These motivated, hardworking and inspiring students are an asset to our state and our country," the fund's president, Ira Hirschfield, said in a statement. "Now that it's legal to do so in California, we encourage other foundations and private donors to consider providing funding to help undocumented students achieve their potential."

**Quoted**

**"These motivated, hardworking and inspiring students are an asset to our state and our country."** HIRSCHFIELD

Higher education has become a battleground in the nation's immigration wars that have seen the Obama administration grant leniency to young people brought into the country illegally as children even as a number of states have sought to crack down on illegal immigrants within their borders.

Last year, California signed into a law a bill dubbed the California Dream Act that allows illegal immigrants to receive privately funded scholarships to attend the state's public colleges and universities after attending at least three years of high school in the state.

Critics say the California Dream Act gives illegal immigrants a false promise because their status will not change after graduating from college and they will remain unable to find legal employment.

But that reality may well be shifting. President Barack Obama will push for comprehensive immigration reform during his second presidential term, his spokesman said in November. REUTERS

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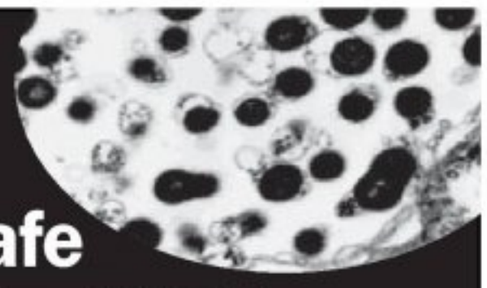

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| Central Discount: | -$3296 |
| Customer Cash: | -$2000 |
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STK#G12-0689

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*Not to be combined with dealer incentives.

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## 2013 JEEP GR. CHEROKEE LAREDO 4X4

STK# M13-0107 MSRP: $30,420

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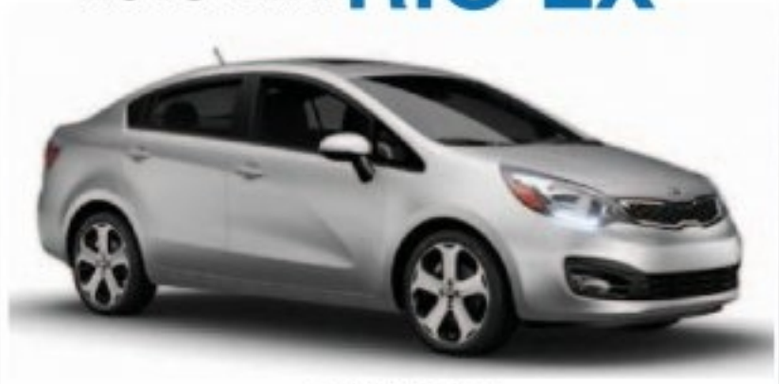

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# THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

## L.A. Reid not returning for 'X Factor' Season 3

Considering **Demi Lovato** and **Simon Cowell**'s contentious behavior and crazy side-eyes on this season of "The X Factor," it comes as some surprise that it's **L.A. Reid** who is the first casualty on the judge's panel. The stylishly dressed music exec will not be coming back next season for the reality TV show.

"I have the utmost respect for Simon Cowell," Reid said Thursday in a statement. (Reid claims he is going back to his job of running the Epic music label.) "He is the very best, and I have had the opportunity to learn so much from him. Working with him on 'X Factor' has been a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I'm honored to have sat on the panel with such incredible talent. Of course, I will miss the show," Reid added. "In my opinion, Simon attracts the best talent, but I'm looking forward to getting back to my core business and the responsibility of running Epic Records."

Reid says he's got (another) job to do.

Season 3 already has the go-ahead by Fox; there is still no word on if Cowell's co-judges, Demi Lovato and **Britney Spears**, will be back.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

### Bell is honest about pregnancy

After **Megan Fox** said she only gained 23 pounds while pregnant with her first baby, **Noah**, in interview with the Daily Mirror, it's refreshing to hear **Kristen Bell**'s take on gestation. "I am currently quite a bit overweight," the actress says in an interview with radio station CBS Detroit. "I'm about 367 pounds. I'm not sure how far that is in months, but in pounds that's where I'm weighing in."

Bell and fiance **Dax Shepard** are expecting their first child this spring.

Bell: Growing a big belly

### The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

**@jtimberlake**
Seriously... The whole Lower East Side of NY looks like Invasion Of The Drunken Santas! I'm not missing out on this next year...

**@kelly_clarkson**
I'M ENGAGED!!!!! I wanted y'all to know!! Happiest night of my life last night! I am so lucky and am with the greatest man ever :)

**@DanaDelany**
Just home from work. Cold pepperoni pizza. Had to go for the red wine-cold rainy night of filming. 5am is like 5pm, right?

### Kevin and Danielle Jonas: Haters gonna hate

As **Kevin** and **Danielle Jonas** gear up to celebrate their third anniversary on Wednesday, they say they now understand what friends and family told them about marriage.

"You have to work at it," Danielle told us at an event for Cold-EEZE and City Harvest which raised money for Hurricane Sandy relief efforts. Chimed in Kevin: "It's not something that just comes very easily — it's constant, every day."

But not every word they heard before they wed turned out to be true.

"[People said] we would already be broken up," Kevin said. "So to those people out there: Suck it!"

And even though they have an anniversary coming up, they're not stressing about gifts for each other.

The happy couple

"We decided we're really not gonna do gifts this year on our anniversary because Christmas is so close," Kevin said. "It's more just being together and doing something fun."

What kind of fun, you ask? Kevin wouldn't spill. "She doesn't know yet. I can't give it away. I've made plans. It will involve a lot of different fun activities."

*—Additional reporting by Meredith Engel*

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# Gothic beauties

**1: Dita Von Teese** launched her fragrance "Rouge" at Fred Segal Melrose on Saturday in L.A.

**2: Megan Fox** attended the premiere of "This Is 40" on Wednesday in Hollywood.

**3:** "Hobbit" star **Liv Tyler** popped up at Lincoln Center on Thursday in New York City.

**4: Katy Perry** (and boyfriend John Mayer) attended "A Christmas Story, The Musical" on Wednesday in NYC.

**5: Krysten Ritter** hit The Bank Nightclub at the Bellagio to celebrate her 31st birthday on Saturday in Vegas.

**6: Yoko Ono** received the "Dr. Rainer Hildebrandt Medal" at Museum Checkpoint Charlie on Friday in Berlin.

1: DAVID LIVINGSTON/GETTY IMAGES
2: KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES
3: BOB KIM/GETTY IMAGES
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# 'Hobbit' film sets December record in debut

WARNER BROS. PICTURES

▶ Martin Freeman stars as Bilbo Baggins in "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey."

"The Hobbit" brought home a big box office treasure over the weekend, setting a December movie record with $84.77 million in U.S. and Canadian ticket sales as legions of fans turned out for the long-awaited big-screen return to Middle-earth.

"The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" also rung up sales of $138.2 million in international markets. Global receipts for the prequel to the smash "Lord of the Rings" trilogy stood at $222.97 million through Sunday, distributor Warner Bros. said.

The current projection for the total box office take in 2012 is $10.8 billion, according to an estimate from Hollywood.com, which would beat the $10.6 billion record in 2009.

The 3-D "Hobbit," directed by Oscar-winning "Rings" filmmaker Peter Jackson, is the first of three films based on a 1937 classic novel by J.R.R. Tolkien. Warner Bros. is aiming to build on the success of the "Rings" series, one of Hollywood's biggest franchises with $2.9 billion in global ticket sales.

The "Lord of the Rings" movies debuted in theaters from 2001 to 2003. After that, production on "The Hobbit" ran into delays, leaving fans waiting a decade for another look at the fantasy story of dwarves, wizards and elves.

The opening weekend "Hobbit" sales proved interest remained high. REUTERS

## Top 5 earners

1. **"The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey,"** $84.8 million
2. **"Rise of the Guardians,"** $7.4 million
3. **"Lincoln,"** $7.2 million
4. **"Skyfall,"** $7 million
5. **"Life of Pi,"** $5.4 million

## TV watch list

▶ Will Blair (Leighton Meester) and Chuck (Ed Westwick) tie the knot on the "Gossip Girl" series finale?

GIOVANNI RUFINO/THE CW

### 'Gossip Girl'

**DRAMA.** There are three things we will miss about the pop culture phenomenon "Gossip Girl" as it signs off with one final xoxo tonight: Headbands (and other fashion statements that had teenage girls and grown woman alike clamoring), Chuck Bass (no comment necessary regarding the end of this dapper bad boy) and controversy (Sex! Parties! The Parents Television Council hyperventilating!). What we simply can't miss: The unveiling of the identity of the show's titular blogger tonight. **Series finale, 8 p.m., The CW**

### '1600 Penn'

**COMEDY.** NBC adds another dysfunctional family to its sitcom lineup, this one about the most famous clan in the United States of America: the first family. "Independence Day" star Bill Pullman pulls presidential duty again here, but it's Josh Gad who steals scenes as the goofball eldest son. The series receives its official premiere Jan. 10. **Sneak preview, 9:30 p.m., NBC**

### 'How I Met Your Mother'

**COMEDY.** More awkward than Lily and Marshall running into a creepy college acquaintance (guest star Seth Green, in a nice "Buffy" reunion with Alyson Hannigan) is Ted trying to decide whether or not to tell Robin that Barney plans on proposing to Patrice. **Midseason finale, 8 p.m., CBS**

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# Get ahead on your job search over the holidays

**It's the most wonderful time of the year to do a little networking, update your resume and make goals Five things to do between eating cookies and toasting 2013**

The holidays are a great time to unwind, have fun with friends and family and do some things completely unrelated to your career.

But in between the eggnog and "Auld Lang Syne," you may also be able to find some time to prepare for a job hunt in the New Year.

Take advantage of this downtime to get a leg up on the competition and come out on top in the New Year by following these five steps:

### Network like crazy

The holidays are a great excuse to contact old employers, acquaintances and friends to let them know you're looking for your next opportunity. Call them to meet up for coffee, attend lots of parties and send greeting cards to put yourself back on their radar.

Many industries also have holiday parties and fundraisers, which are perfect opportunities to meet professionals in your field.

### Update your resume, blog and social networks

While you're relaxing by the fire and sipping on some cocoa, it's the perfect time to finally update your resume, write for that blog you forgot about and start connecting with people online. Don't use the excuse that no one in your industry uses social media, because it just isn't true!

Update your LinkedIn profile, find some new Twitter followers and write some thoughtful blog posts to show off the new, employable you by January 1.

**Research new opportunities**

If Santa doesn't drop that dream job into your lap, use December to research new possibilities for next year. Find an organization in your field searching for volunteers, look into further education options or find a professional association where you can make some industry connections. With new activities and courses lined up, you won't have any time to feel sorry for yourself during your New Year's Day hangover.

### Make a realistic calendar

Take all of that New Year's resolution energy and create a realistic calendar filled with goals and other things you hope to accomplish next year.

Mark down recruiting or hiring dates, industry events, course start dates and any other job related deadlines that may help you turn your visions of sugar plums into reality.

### Relax

Use the holidays to recharge your batteries and enjoy some love and support from family and friends.

With a renewed sense of confidence, you'll be in much better spirits to continue your job search in 2013. Asking loved ones for some awesome interview clothes as presents can't hurt either.

JILLIAN WOOD FOR TalentEgg hatching graduate careers

*TalentEgg.com is a job board and online career resource for college students and recent graduates.*

▶ Set aside a little holiday time to think about your career goals.

EYECANDY IMAGES

## Top 5

### Worst things you can do at a company Christmas party

In this season of merriment and good cheer, it's easy to forget that you have to remain professional at your office holiday party.

While some blunders can be laughed off the next day, some can harm your career and reputation. Here are the biggest mistakes you can make:

▶ We're not judging — we're just here to help.

STOCKBYTE

**1 Downing a bottle of Grey Goose:** This rule is really the foundation of all others, but for some, it's quite hard to follow. The alcohol is usually flowing at these events and everyone is having a great time. It's easy to get caught up in the fun, but there is a fine line between enjoying yourself and passing out. If you're going to drink, make sure you do it in moderation and plan to take public transit or a taxi home.

**2 Hooking up with co-workers:** If you've failed to follow the first rule and find yourself a little too tipsy, you must, under no circumstances, wind up in a compromising situation with a coworker. A staggering number of hookups happen at work-related events, and this can affect your job as well as your personal life. So please, stay away from the mistletoe.

**3 Insulting co-workers:** During the holidays, some individuals feel the need to express their true feelings about their coworkers, positive or otherwise. The holiday party is the worst possible place to share your grievances with a colleague, or more dangerously, declare to your boss, "I could do your job with my eyes closed!"

**4 Taking your clothes off — any clothes:** This actually happens. And while you may not get fired immediately for an act of youthful defiance or idiocy, people have long memories for such incidents, and it certainly doesn't inspire confidence in professionalism.

**5 Discussing topics of critical importance to your career:** This is particularly important if you've bungled any of the above rules. If you've been wandering about in your boxers, it's best that you don't saddle up next to your boss at the bar and ask for a raise. When the booze is flowing, people will sometimes inexplicably bring up issues which are related to a promotion, raise or bonus. Save it for a more appropriate forum once you're back in the office.

ASHLEIGH TRAHAN/TALENTEGG

## Advice

COMSTOCK

### Naughty or nice? At work, it's not always so clear

*When it comes to Santa, naughty and nice are pretty cut and dry. But at work? Sometimes it's OK to blur the line. Don't tell Mr. Claus, but being a little mischievous might help your career.*

**1 Gossiping:** No one likes a blabbermouth, but delicate communications with the right people could improve your standing at work. "The content of gossip can be positive or negative in nature," explains Eden King, a psychology professor at George Mason University. "Gossiping might help people coordinate with each other, gain power and become more central."

Keeping your ears open and your mouth shut isn't a bad idea, either. "This is a great way to find out what may not be publicly shared yet," says Amanda Augustine of career resource site TheLadders. "Use this information to your advantage without ever having to join the fray."

**2 Showing off:** Sure, some of your colleagues will call you out for brown-nosing, but ignore that. "Staying late, coming in early — other employees may see this as kissing up, but we love it when employees break rules like when to come in and when to leave, as long as it's in the company's favor," says Tyler Barnett, president of public relations firm TBPR.

**3 Being greedy:** If the past couple years have taught you anything, it's that no one will hunt you down to hand out bonuses. Be prepared to ask for these. "Come to your annual review ready to promote your contributions — now is not the time to be modest," says Augustine.

JULIA WEST

1/2

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# Job Openings Week of 12/17

**Billing Clerk** - Our client, a Boston area hospital, is seeking a Medical Billing Clerk with specific acute care hospital experience, a solid working knowledge of Microsoft Office applications, and excellent communication, customer service and organizational skills. This position requires 4+ years experience. Primary responsibilities include processing bills with remittance, preparing journal entries of adjustments to billings, communicating with internal departments on discrepancies and following up on claims denials. Pay up to $18/hour based on experience. If interested, please contact Brigette.Felago@Accountemps.com.

**Legal Billing Clerk** - A well known law firm in Boston is seeking a Legal Biller with recent law firm experience working in Elite. The ideal candidate can start before the end of the year, and has legal billing experience working with attorneys to resolve billing issues and contacting clients to collect on outstanding balances. Additionally, the employee will be paying invoices and resolving partially paid or unpaid account balances. Pay rates range from $17-$25/hour. If interested, please contact Allison.Rebello@Accountemps.com.

**Accounts Payable Clerk with Great Plains** - A prestigious college in Boston is seeking an experienced Great Plains Accounts Payable coordinator for an engagement set to last several months. Responsibilities include matching and coding invoices, resolving A/P issues, processing expense reports, updating and reconciling sub-ledger to G/L, and processing checks. Prior Accounts Payable experience is a MUST, Bachelor's Degree is preferred and Great Plains experience is a plus. Great work environment! Pay Rate is $17-19/hour. Please contact Brigette.Felago@Accountemps.com.

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# Red flags to look for on Craigslist posts

**Is it possible to find legitimate work on Craigslist? Of course But you've got to know how to spot the scams from the real deals**

If ever there were a go-to place for, well, everything, Craigslist might just be it. Founded in 1995 as a list of events happening in the San Francisco area, Craigslist has grown to be one of the most well-known websites for free classified listings and community forums. From housing to garage sales to personal ads to, of course, jobs, Craigslist has it all — including scams. Here's what should raise a red flag:

### No company name

It's common on Craigslist to find jobs that don't include the company name, because Craigslist doesn't require a company to include its name. In fact, they make it easy for companies to post anonymously, so many do. This prevents job-seekers from doing research on the company they're applying to, and limits your ability to find out whether the company is one that you'd want to work for and whether it's a scam.

### No unique e-mail

Many job postings request that you respond to one of Craigslist's automatically generated anonymous e-mails, which unfortunately means that you have zero idea who you are actually sending your résumé to. Even if there is a company name in the posting, many scammers will use an anonymous Craigslist e-mail so that you think you're applying to the company they mentioned even though you're not.

### Check-cashing and wire transfers

Some of the most common job scams on Craigslist are "mystery shopping" jobs in which companies ask to send job seekers large checks ($2,000 for example) which can be deposited into their bank accounts. It seems easy enough — the job seeker gets to keep a percentage of the check as long as they wire the remaining funds back to the company through Western Union.

But the checks are always counterfeit, and once the bank discovers the error, the job seeker is out $2,000 and the scam company walks away with the wired funds from the job seeker's bank account.

STOCKBYTE

▶ Seem too good to be true? There are plenty of scams in the Craigslist job postings.

### Asking for personal information

Some job scams are simply phishing for personal information, either to steal identities or gain access to banking and credit card information. If you're searching for jobs on Craigslist, never give out personal information like bank account numbers, Social Security numbers or even your home address. Provide only your e-mail address and phone number as contact information on your résumé.

BRIE WEILER REYNOLDS FOR Mashable
The Social Media Guide

Gift guide

## Gifts for coworkers

**You spend more time with them than your friends Say thanks for all the times they hooked you up at the vending machine**

▶ **1.** For those pressing to-do lists. **Oasis Metallic Notebook, $7 each, oasis.andotherbrands.com**

▶ **2.** Office environments beg for cookies. This delicious batch is made by four-times James Beard Award winner Dorie Greenspan. **Beurre & Sel Classic Jammers, $14, www.beurreandsel.com**

▶ **3.** Primping deskside just got easier. **Tarte limited-edition curler and mascara set, $16, www.tartecosmetics.com**

▶ **4.** This full-bodied wine pairs perfectly with hearty winter meals. And yes, it's OK if you just bought it for the festive star label. **Clos de Los Siete, $18, stores nationwide**

▶ **5.** Valrhona's delicious new **Caramelia Milk Chocolate Pearls** — milk chocolate over a toasted puff cereal center— taste like high-end Whoppers. Perfect for the 4 p.m. sugar crash. **$8, www.valrhona-chocolate.com**

TINA CHADHA

Interview

## What will Obamacare mean to you and your employer?

*As a member of the Health Law Forum at the American Bar Association, Karen R. McLeese has been steeped in the Employee Retirement Income Security Act for more than a decade. She's a seasoned pro on the law behind employee benefits, and currently works for the Atlanta-based CBIZ Benefits & Insurance Services. We checked in with her for a breakdown on what Obamacare will mean for employees and employers.*

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Confused about what the Affordable Care Act even is? We can see why.

**How will the new legislation affect people who don't have health insurance through their employer?**
Starting in 2014, if you work 30 hours per week or more — and there are more than 50 employees at your company — your employer will have to provide coverage at an affordable rate or risk being subject to an excise tax. If your employer is too small or still doesn't offer coverage, you will be able to go to an exchange — a new centralized marketplace for health insurance — and purchase it there. If you don't purchase insurance, you risk a $600 penalty on your 2014 taxes.

**Could your employer reduce your hours to keep you under the 30 quota?**
Practically speaking, we don't know how that's going to play out. But, if they suddenly drop you to 25 on the eve of this law, that could be construed as interfering with your protected rights. Employers could be sued for doing that.

**What if you can't afford the insurance?**
If you fall below 400 percent of the poverty line, there will be subsidies available. In terms of policy, one of the outstanding questions is how that's going to get worked out.

**What if you have a pre-existing condition?**
Starting in 2014, an insurer can't deny you coverage for that.

**But they can still jack up the rates, right?**
There will also be rate restrictions. And they will only be able to base the rates on a few categories: age and smoker status, basically. One of the arguments against this change is that it may be more expensive for young, healthy people, because insurers can't charge older people as much as before.

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# Grappling with grief in the wake of a tragedy

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GABRIELLE BERNSTEIN

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How does one handle the news that 27 people were shot in an elementary school, 20 of whom were small children? Managing our feelings in situations like this can be confusing and overwhelming. How do we find any power when we're powerless? How do we go on with our day-to-day lives when such a tragedy is unfolding so close to home? How do we act normally without fear of going to the movies or the mall or dropping off our kids at school?

There is no right or wrong way to feel in a tragedy. But there are tools that can guide you through your emotions and help you find power in a powerless situation. If you feel emotional about the shooting in Newtown, use these tools.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Mourners leave a church service held nearby Sandy Hook Elementary.

**Step 1: Honor your feelings**

If you avoid your feelings, they will come up at some point and in some form. The first step in dealing with tragedy is to fully honor your feelings. If you need time alone, spend time alone. If you need to cry, cry. Sometimes it's helpful to write about how you're feeling. This step can be very cathartic, and it's crucial to moving forward with grace.

**Step 2: Set loving intentions**

When people pass on in a tragic way, a fearful energy vibrates throughout the world. Whether you realize it or not, you're directly affected. The only power we have in these situations is the power of loving intentions — meditation and prayer. Spend time in stillness by yourself or with loved ones. Send love and light to all the victims involved. For the next 30 days, commit to praying for their peace. (If you need help with meditation, you can visit www.gabbyb.tv for my free guided meditations.)

**Step 3: Be kinder to everyone**

At times like this, we must let go of all littleness. Now more than ever, make the time to be with your loved ones. Hold them close and remind them of how much you care for them. Take time to connect with family and community. When tragedies like this happen, everyone feels it on a visceral level. The only way for us to raise the energy of our nation is to bring in more love immediately. Fear and chaos cannot coexist with love. But where there is love, there is real power.

None of us can undo the tragedy in Newtown. But we can come together in love to move through our feelings, support one another, bless the victims and heal.

*— **Gabrielle Bernstein** is the author of "Spirit Junkie."*

*Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.*

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## Letters

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### Who will protect us from ourselves?

*"He was such a nice boy, he used to cut my grass."* – **FRANK ZAPPA, JOE'S GARAGE**

Even religious leaders and, I suspect, NRA representatives — as well as middle-America politicians — are attempting to reassure the public and possibly maintain their own interests by saying that mass shooting violence is usually not a case of an otherwise normal person displaying abnormal behavior. That, in most cases, this is an act committed by an individual suffering from depression or violent tendencies for quite some time — that statistically, there are few occasions where an individual just plain snapped. Even these spokespeople do, at least in the shadow of 20 elementary school children being shot to death, admit that we need to do something to prevent guns coming to be possessed by known mentally ill or violent human beings. This type of tragedy happens here again and again, whereas it seems to be statistically absent from other nonwarring countries. One difference? Somewhere near 300 million handguns, at least two-thirds of which are privately owned. I know that in the remote possibility of an apocalyptical future where a nuclear exchange wipes out civilization as we know it, I will seek out one of my gun-collecting friends. But I will never purchase a gun. How am I to ever know that one day, I, or someone in my household, will not unusually, abnormally, unstatistically just plain snap?

**GREG MCKINNEY, VIA E-MAIL**

**"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."**

**SECOND AMENDMENT**

The idea behind the Second Amendment is actually quite simple. The government can't have all the guns or else the people will not have the power to defend themselves against the government.

We agree, then, that the Framers did obviously intend for legal private ownership of arms. But which arms? How many? Does this mean that because the government has tanks, we have the right to own tanks? Predator drones? Nukes? What we have then is a tension between positive and negative liberties. Freedom to and freedom from. The Constitution both grants me the freedom TO own a gun and the freedom FROM gun violence.

So what do we choose? How do we strike a sensible balance among the interests of these opposing individual and collective liberties?

Today's horrible tragedy was not caused by guns. It was caused by a man who visited unthinkable evil upon the innocent. I do know, however, that it is much easier to perpetrate a mass killing with a Sig-Sauer .223 caliber semi-automatic rifle in hand. This weapon was designed for combat — not for hunting, not for defense of self and home — and I do not believe that this is a weapon that a "well regulated Militia" provides for or protects.

**MICHAEL RYBACKI, VIA E-MAIL**

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
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Please include your name and contact information.

## Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Although it's always important for you and your spouse or loved one to be like-minded, today it could be even more crucial.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Even though you might do little, you could still expect a lot. However, because your rewards will be commensurate to your service, you're not apt to get what you want.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Going to a place that attracts only small groups of people is likely to be far more pleasing to your taste than being where the large crowds gather. Make a smart choice.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** If you're planning on hosting something at your place, be very selective about the guest list. Without careful consideration, you could invite someone who doesn't fit in.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** You might not be as well tuned to your audience as you think, so be extremely careful that you don't blurt out something that could be offensive to your listeners.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Your judgment regarding a commercial matter might not be up to its usual sharpness. Tread softly when it comes to a transaction so that you don't make any bum deals.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Don't be tempted to change a well-considered opinion due to pressure from a companion. He or she might merely be biased or self-serving.

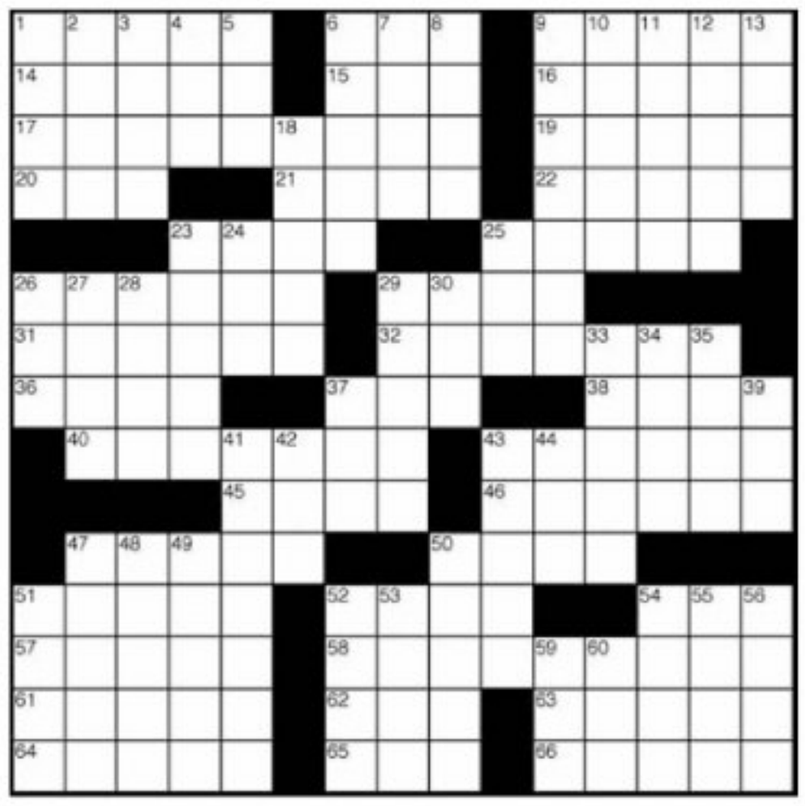
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** If you accidentally put your foot in your mouth by blurting out something you shouldn't have, take care when trying to make amends. You could do more damage if you're not careful.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** It could be a big mistake today to try to alter some social plans that would affect others in order to suit your personal interests. You might get your way, but anger a lot of companions.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** You aren't apt to achieve too much today if you're not methodical or purposeful. Even if you get back on track, it might be too late.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Pretending to comprehend something you really don't understand could put you in an embarrassing position. Don't let your ego get you in a situation that you won't be prepared for.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** If you've been pretending to be the underwriter of hopeless causes lately, there's a chance that others might get you involved in a costly undertaking that you'll have a hard time dodging. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**



**Across**
1 Did yard work
6 Dow Jones fig.
9 Not shy
14 San Antonio landmark
15 Prefix for "recent"
16 Avoid a big wedding
17 Beatles tune
19 Hilarious people
20 Ooola's guy
21 "The Mammoth Hunters" heroine
22 Raw cotton
23 Inventor — Geiger
25 Not tidy
26 Japanese mat
29 Skinny
31 Brainpower
32 Cheyenne's county
36 Doc Holliday's friend
37 Come to the plate
38 Reverse
40 Thug
43 Pleaded
45 Volcano in Sicily
46 Map feature
47 Injury
50 Sly
51 — the ticket!
52 Stiffly decorous
54 "Later, gator!"
57 Please, in Vienna
58 Descended a cliff
61 Type of wool
62 Miner's load
63 It's northwest of Oahu
64 Erle's lawyer
65 Male parent
66 Put effort into

**Down**
1 BLT spread
2 Fridge stick
3 Stinging insect
4 911 staffer
5 Forest grazer
6 Gibb and Warhol
7 Scaloppine base
8 Spanish artist
9 Fragrant garden plant
10 Mishmashes
11 Loses warmth
12 As is proper
13 Diminished by
18 Some Indian rulers
23 Marx brother
24 Lb. or tsp.
25 Spoil
26 Mao — -tung
27 Delhi nursemaid
28 Poi base
29 Alpaca kin
30 Gourmandize
33 Hot and humid
34 "Bus Stop" author
35 Shangri-la
37 Chignon or cinnamon goody
39 Not common
41 Thickly
42 Business suff.
43 Zeppelin
44 Sushi morsel
47 Bread choice
48 Movie with a posse
49 Unmitigated
50 Sponged up
51 Cough syrup meas.
52 Cattle mover
53 — avis
54 Like larkspur
55 Wine vintage
56 Revise
59 Make do with
60 Negligent

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | | | | | | 7 | 5 | |
| | 6 | | 4 | | | 2 | 1 | |
| | 4 | | | 5 | 7 | | | 3 |
| 3 | | | 9 | | 1 | | | |
| | | | 5 | 3 | 6 | | | |
| | | | 2 | | 8 | | | 5 |
| 2 | | | 3 | 6 | | | 4 | |
| | 8 | 5 | | | 9 | | 6 | |
| | 3 | 1 | | | | | | 9 |

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 7 | | | | 1 | | | |
| | | | | 2 | 7 | | 1 | |
| | | | | 8 | | | 5 | 7 |
| 1 | 9 | | 6 | | | | | 3 |
| 3 | 5 | | | | | | 7 | 1 |
| 4 | | | | | 5 | | 9 | 8 |
| 9 | 3 | | | 6 | | | | |
| | 8 | | 9 | 1 | | | | |
| | | | 7 | | | | 8 | 9 |

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

**Solution to weekend's crossword**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | L | L | O | Y | | E | M | O | T | E | | P | A | L |
| K | O | A | L | A | | V | I | R | A | L | | L | O | U |
| A | S | P | E | N | | I | N | D | I | A | | A | R | C |
| | | | | K | I | C | K | | P | A | T | T | I | |
| F | U | L | G | E | N | T | | M | I | S | L | E | A | D |
| A | R | I | S | E | N | | V | A | L | E | T | | | |
| R | I | T | A | S | | F | A | L | L | D | O | W | N | |
| O | A | R | | | F | L | U | E | S | | | H | O | W |
| | H | E | L | L | I | O | N | S | | Q | U | A | S | I |
| | | | P | I | L | O | T | | C | U | R | L | E | D |
| M | A | N | G | L | E | D | | C | H | I | N | E | S | E |
| C | L | E | A | T | | | A | L | E | C | | | | |
| C | O | W | | I | N | F | R | A | | H | O | U | R | S |
| O | N | T | | N | O | R | M | S | | E | N | T | E | R |
| Y | E | S | | G | N | A | S | H | | S | O | A | P | S |

**How to play Sudoku:** Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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3

**ON TV TODAY**

**NFL**

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8:30 P.M., ESPN

**In the news**

## Krafts to donate to Newtown

Patriots owner Robert Kraft and his family, who own the Rand-Whitney corrugated box plant in Newtown, Conn., will donate $25,000 to the community to help the families and others affected by the shooting tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown last Friday.

## R.A. Dickey trade close to complete

Mets pitcher R.A. Dickey will be dealt to Toronto as long as Dickey and the Jays agree on a contract extension, ESPN reported. Catching prospect Travis d'Arnaud would go to New York. METRO

**49ers 41 | Patriots 34** **Next Sunday: at Jacksonville, 1 p.m. CBS**

# BACK AND FORTH

## Patriots with unreal second half
## Down 31-3, Brady and Co. come back to make it an all-time classic

JARED WICKERHAM/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Colin Kaepernick was sharp early for the 49ers.

*Three things we learned in a Patriots comeback that ultimately came up just a bit short against the 49ers:*

**76** Tom Brady struggled to find any rhythm in the first half, throwing for only 76 yards. Brady also threw an interception.

**1 BATTLING BACK**
The 49ers looked like they were well on their way to a blowout, owning leads of 24-3 and 31-3. Costly Patriots turnovers, including Aldon Smith's pick of Tom Brady on an Aaron Hernandez bobble in the third quarter, gave San Fran reason to believe that New England would take the rest of the night off. But the Pats unfathomably battled back, with Danny Woodhead finding the end zone from six yards out with 6:04 left in the third and Tom Brady plunging in for six on the first play of the fourth quarter to make it 31-17. New England then came up with a huge conversion on fourth-and-2, when Brady hit Wes Welker on a play-action lob. Hernandez would score a minute later to remarkably bring the Pats to within a touchdown. With just under nine minutes to go, Brady hit Brandon Lloyd along the sidelines for a big 53-yard pickup before yet another score to tie it at 31. San Fran finally ended the New England run with a Colin Kaepernick to Michael Crabtree 38-yard touchdown pass.

**2 THE 'NINERS AIN'T THE TEXANS**
Whereas Houston walked onto the big stage and fell flat on its face, San Francisco was ready. The Niners thrived in the New England muck that so often has catered to the Patriots. San Francisco is physical and has the potential to win ugly, especially with a dominant defense. Consider that the best offense in football didn't enter enemy territory until the seventh play of the second quarter, and didn't score until a grinding 16-play drive resulted in just three points. New England had just 113 total yards at the half. The Texans game felt almost awkward, this one felt sort of Super Bowl-ish, all because Jim Harbaugh's team plays like it's meant to be on the big stage.

**3 STRANGE HAPPENINGS**
The weather had to be a factor in one of the oddest first quarters you'll ever see. The first 15 minutes saw five fumbles, two challenges, a Brady interception, a Randy Moss touchdown, a missed field goal, a fake punt and a presidential address. The second quarter started with (what else) a fumble, and there was mass confusion later on a New England punt that led to a lengthy delay and a whole lot of Ed Hochuli hatred. METRO/TL & MB

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PATRICK SMITH/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Peyton Manning had a QB rating of just 62.9 yesterday, but it was more than enough to hold off the Ravens.

# Ravens continue slump

## NFL roundup

*Huge games with playoff implications littered the NFL landscape yesterday, but many of these Week 15 showdowns were over before halftime:*

**Denver Broncos 34**
**Baltimore Ravens 17**

The Ravens are stumbling as they lost their third straight game yesterday in a contest which wasn't as close as the final score indicated. Denver led 31-3 at the end of the third quarter. Knowshon Moreno led the Broncos rushing with 118 yards and a touchdown in the win. Denver improves to 11-3, while Baltimore falls to 9-5.

**Houston Texans 29**
**Indianapolis Colts 17**

Houston bounced back from its loss last week with a crucial AFC North win over the Colts. Arian Foster led the Texans with 165 yards rushing and Andre Johnson had a huge day, catching 11 passes for 151 yards and a touchdown. Houston is now 12-2, while the Colts are 9-5.

**Atlanta Falcons 34**
**New York Giants 0**

Matt Ryan threw for 270 yards and three touchdowns in the Atlanta win, while wide receiver Julio Jones hauled in six passes for 74 yards and two touchdowns. Atlanta is now 12-2 while New York is 8-6.

RYAN HANNABLE
sports@metro.us

### Blowout Sunday

- Redskins 38, Browns 21
- Vikings 36, Rams 22
- Dolphins 24, Jaguars 3
- Saints 41, Buccaneers 0
- Packers 21, Bears 13
- Cowboys 27, Steelers 24

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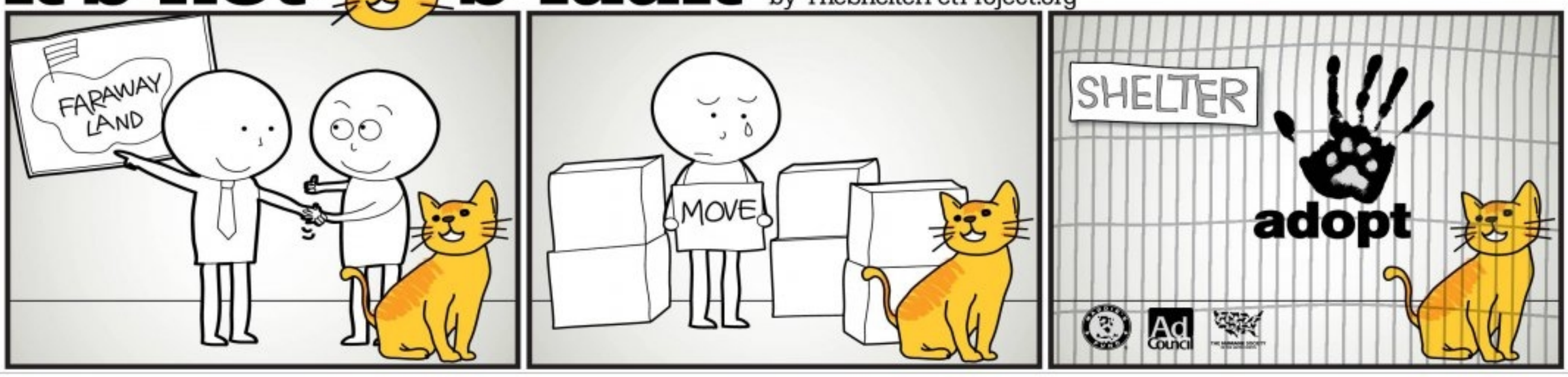

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